

CONVEYOR SAFETY TIPS for Plant Operators

Card No. ST 16



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Plant operators are exposed to more conveyor hazards than most mine employees and are involved in more accidents.

Conveyors can be Deadly

Between 1990 and 1997, conveyors were involved in 40 mining deaths. Twelve **plant operators** died, the most deaths of any job category. Thirty eight plant operators were permanently disabled. You can **help yourself** work safer and live longer. When near this machinery, watch for conveyor hazards and work safely.

**Conveyors can grab you
...don't get caught up.**

Working smart

- **Lock out** the conveyor power switch and **tag it** before you work on that conveyor.
- Make sure **guards are in place**. Guards make conveyors safer.
- Make sure **everyone's in the clear** before you start the conveyor system.
- **Align the belt** from a safe place and only after you're sure the conveyor can't grab you.
- **Return idlers** look safe, but they can **hurt you**. Never try to repair or adjust them while the conveyor is running.
- **Stay clear of suspended loads** when doing installation or repair work on a conveyor.
- Conveyor **stop cords** are for your safety. Check them periodically to make sure they actually work.
- Use a **harness or safety belt and line** when working where you can fall from a conveyor.

Safe maintenance

- **Don't manually dress moving belts**. Put only pressurized dressings on running conveyors.
- Don't try to **dislodge** rocks from pulleys while the conveyor is running.
- **Block conveyors** against **hazardous** motion before repairing or doing maintenance on the machine.

If you have any questions about any mine health and safety matter, please contact your local MSHA office or visit the MSHA home page at www.msha.gov (1998)